

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, and 12-41 were pending in the application.

Claims 6, 8, 12-15, and 22-41 were allowed.

Claims 2, 4, and 16-21 were rejected.

Claims have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2 and 4 have been amended.

Claims 42-56 have been added.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, and 12-56 is respectfully requested in view of the following.

The Rejection of Claims 2, 4, and 16-21 in view of Abdrakhmanov:

Claims 2, 4, and 16-21 were rejected in view of Abdrakhmanov (US 5,083,608).
The Applicant respectfully traverses.

Abdrakhmanov discloses an arrangement for patching off troublesome zones in a well that includes a pipes 2 that are threaded together by an externally threaded end portion 3 that engages a corresponding internally threaded end portion 4 of an adjacent pipe 2. The inside diameters of the pipes 2 of Abdrakhmanov are always equal to one another.

Claim 2, as amended, recites: A wellbore casing, comprising:
a tubular member including at least one thin wall section at an end of the tubular member and a thick wall section adjacent to the thin wall section; and
a compressible annular member coupled to each thin wall section;
wherein the thin wall section is not threaded; and
wherein the compressible annular member extends to the end of the tubular member.

By contrast, the end portions of the pipes 2 of Abdrakhmanov are always threaded. Thus, Abdrakhmanov does not disclose or suggest the invention of claim 2, as amended. Furthermore, for at least the same reasons, Abdrakhmanov also does not disclose or suggest the invention of claims 16 and 17, that depend from claim 2.

Claim 4, as amended, recites A wellbore casing, comprising:
a first tubular member having a first inside diameter; and
a second tubular member having a second inside diameter equal to the first
inside diameter coupled to the first tubular member in an overlapping
relationship;
wherein the first and second tubular members are coupled by the process of
deforming a portion of the second tubular member into contact with a
portion of the first tubular member;
wherein, prior to the deformation, the inside diameters of the first and second
tubular members are not equal; and
wherein, prior to the deformation, the inside diameters of the first and second
tubular members are substantially constant.

By contrast, the inside diameters of the pipes 2 of Abdrakhmanov are always
equal to one another. Thus, Abdrakhmanov does not disclose or suggest the invention
of claim 4, as amended. Furthermore, for at least the same reasons, Abdrakhmanov
also does not disclose or suggest the invention of claims 18-21, that depend from claim
4.

The Rejection of Claim 4 in view of Simmons:

Claim 4 was rejected in view of Simmons (US 1,880,218). The Applicant
respectfully traverses.

Simmons discloses a method of lining oil wells that uses corrugated lining units D
to line the interior wall of a wellbore. The inside diameters of the lining units D of
Simmons are not substantially constant.

Claim 4, as amended, recites A wellbore casing, comprising:
a first tubular member having a first inside diameter; and
a second tubular member having a second inside diameter equal to the first
inside diameter coupled to the first tubular member in an overlapping
relationship;

wherein the first and second tubular members are coupled by the process of deforming a portion of the second tubular member into contact with a portion of the first tubular member;

wherein, prior to the deformation, the inside diameters of the first and second tubular members are not equal; and

wherein, prior to the deformation, the inside diameters of the first and second tubular members are substantially constant.

By contrast, the inside diameters of the lining units D of Simmons are not substantially constant. Thus, Simmons does not disclose or suggest the invention of claim 4, as amended.

The Rejection of Claims 4, 18 and 20 in view of Bailey:

Claims 4, 18, and 20 were rejected in view of Bailey (US 5,957,195). The Applicant respectfully traverses.

Bailey discloses a wellbore tool stroke indicator system and tubular patch that includes a corrugated tubular patch member 501 having an end portion 503 that overlaps with an end portion 504 of another corrugated tubular patch member 502. The inside diameters of the corrugated tubular patch members 501 and 502 are always substantially equal, and the inside diameters of the corrugated tubular patch members 501 and 502 are not constant.

Claim 4, as amended, recites A wellbore casing, comprising:

a first tubular member having a first inside diameter; and

a second tubular member having a second inside diameter equal to the first inside diameter coupled to the first tubular member in an overlapping relationship;

wherein the first and second tubular members are coupled by the process of deforming a portion of the second tubular member into contact with a portion of the first tubular member;

wherein, prior to the deformation, the inside diameters of the first and second tubular members are not equal; and

wherein, prior to the deformation, the inside diameters of the first and second tubular members are substantially constant.

By contrast, the inside diameters of the corrugated tubular patch members 501 and 502 are always substantially equal, and the inside diameters of the corrugated tubular patch members 501 and 502 are not constant. Thus, Bailey does not disclose or suggest the invention of claim 4, as amended. Furthermore, for at least the same reasons, Bailey also does not disclose or suggest the invention of claims 18 and 20, that depend from claim 4.

The Rejection of Claims 2, 16, and 17 in view of Metcalfe et al.:

Claims 2, 16, and 17 were rejected in view of Metcalfe (US 6,425,444). The Applicant respectfully traverses.

Metcalfe discloses a method and apparatus for downhole sealing that includes a tubing section 18 having a seal portion 30 including spaced apart sealing bands 36 and a thicker walled portion 32. None of the sealing bands 36 of Metcalfe extend to the end of the seal portion 30.

Claim 2, as amended, recites: A wellbore casing, comprising:
a tubular member including at least one thin wall section at an end of the tubular member and a thick wall section adjacent to the thin wall section; and
a compressible annular member coupled to each thin wall section;
wherein the thin wall section is not threaded; and
wherein the compressible annular member extends to the end of the tubular member.

By contrast, none of the sealing bands 36 of Metcalfe extend to the end of the seal portion 30. Thus, Metcalfe does not disclose or suggest the invention of claim 2, as amended. Furthermore, for at least the same reasons, Metcalfe also does not disclose or suggest the invention of claims 16 and 17, that depend from claim 2.

The Allowance of Claims 6, 8, 12-15, and 22-41:

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 6, 8, 12-15, and 22-41.

New Claims 42-56:

Claims 42-56 recite additional aspects of the present invention that are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

Unless stated otherwise, none of the amendments to the claims were made for reasons substantially related to the statutory requirements for patentability.

Furthermore, unless stated otherwise, the amendment to the claims were made to simply make express what had been implicit in the claims as originally worded and therefore is not a narrowing amendment that would create any type of prosecution history estoppel.

In addition, to the extent that formerly dependent claims have been amended to present them in independent form, such amendments do not limit the scope of the doctrine of equivalents for any of the elements of such amended claims. Rather, because dependent claims incorporate the limitations of the claims from which they depend, such amendments merely present the subject matter of the dependent claim in an equivalent form.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are drawn to novel subject matter, patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and allow claims presented for reconsideration herein. To the extent that the present amendment results in additional fees, the Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge deposit account no. 08-1394, order no. 25791.7.02.

S/N 09/510,913

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Dated: _____

4/29/05

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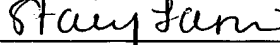
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